

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA**

DOCKET NO. 2009-411-G

In the Matter Of

Application of Piedmont Natural Gas
Company, Inc. for Approval of Energy
Efficiency Programs

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**PETITION TO MODIFY ORDER
ESTABLISHING
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. ("Piedmont"), through counsel and pursuant to S.C. Code § 58-37-20, hereby requests approval by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") of a minor change in eligibility requirements for potential participants in its previously approved Residential Low-Income Weatherization Energy Efficiency Program and to modify Commission Order No. 2010-390 to include this change. In support of this request, Piedmont respectfully shows unto the Commission as follows:

1. On May 27, 2010, in Order No. 2010-390, this Commission approved a settlement between Piedmont and the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") adopting three energy efficiency programs sponsored by Piedmont and offered to qualifying participants within Piedmont's South Carolina service territory. These programs were: (1) a Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program; (2) a High-Efficiency Equipment Rebate Program; and (3) a Customer Education Program.

2. Under its Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program ("Program"), Piedmont offers assistance to low-income residential customers with weatherizing their homes. The eligibility criteria under this Program which were proposed by Piedmont, agreed to by the ORS, and approved by the Commission are those utilized by the Department of Energy's Federal Weatherization Assistance Program. Specifically, qualifying customers under this Program must have a household income that is no more than 200% of the 2009 Federal Poverty

Income Guidelines as established for the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program.

3. In the description of Piedmont's Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program set forth in Piedmont's original filing in this proceeding, Piedmont indicated that it would "coordinate with the state/local agency who administers the Federal Weatherization Program to assist us in finding local energy contractors and/or local community action agencies that can help administer this program."

4. Following approval of this Program by the Commission, Piedmont began the process discussed in paragraph 3 above. That process revealed that Furman University operates a Community Conservation Corps ("CCC") program designed to assist low-income households with energy efficiency and weatherization and utilizing student volunteers for some of the weatherization work. Furman's activities are similar to those approved by the Commission under Piedmont's Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program.

5. Piedmont and Furman have had a number of discussions regarding the possibility of establishing an informal partnership whereby Furman's Community Conservation Corps program would perform weatherization work of the type contemplated under Piedmont's Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program utilizing a portion of Piedmont's approved funding. Piedmont's funding would allow more weatherization measures to be installed than what has previously been done in the past by student volunteers.

6. Piedmont believes that such an informal partnership for the utilization of a portion of Piedmont's low-income weatherization funding would be a beneficial and cost-effective means of providing weatherization assistance to qualifying South Carolina residents and is consistent with its approved program. In its discussions with Furman, Furman has agreed to conduct weatherization using Piedmont program funds in a manner consistent with Piedmont's Commission approved Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program but desires to deviate from that program in one respect. That respect involves the definition of what constitutes a low-

income household for purposes of determining eligibility under the program.

7. Currently, low-income is defined by reference to the standard utilized by the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program – i.e. total household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2009.¹ The Furman CCC program works with the City of Greenville who qualifies the low-income residents to participate in the program using a different low-income standard than the Federal Poverty Guidelines.² Furman would like to adopt this additional low-income eligibility standard upon which it currently relies. This additional “low-income” standard is that promulgated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) which is based on an analysis of median income statistics. The HUD standard is used by many state and local agencies for purposes of establishing low-income thresholds. It produces results similar to that produced by the Health and Human Services definition but with some variations. The HUD standard has been historically used by the Furman CCC program to establish whether a residence is low-income and they desire to continue its use as a measure of low-income.

8. Based on the foregoing, Piedmont requests that the Commission approve a modification to its Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program to allow use of both the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program standard and the HUD standard in determining whether a residence qualifies as “low-income.”

9. Piedmont believes that the modification requested herein will serve the public interest by facilitating its partnership with Furman University's Community Conservation Corps and by expanding the definition of what structures may qualify for weatherization assistance under Piedmont's Program.

¹ The Federal Poverty Guidelines are established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services utilizing Census Bureau data.

² Furman's CCC program is currently limited to the physical vicinity of Greenville but the rest of Piedmont's low-income weatherization program is not so limited.

10. Piedmont has discussed the proposed modification to its Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program with ORS and believes that ORS has no objection to such modification.

WHEREFORE, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission approve Piedmont's proposed modification of its Residential Low-Income Weatherization Program as described herein and in Commission Order No. 2010-390.

Respectfully submitted, this 16th day of September, 2010.

PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.

s/ James H. Jeffries IV
James H. Jeffries IV

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG

VERIFICATION

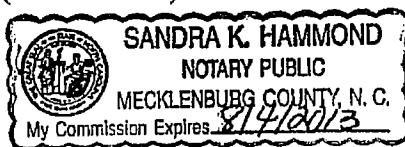
Pia Powers, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is Manager – Regulatory Affairs of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., that as such, she has read the foregoing Petition and knows the contents thereof; that the same are true of her own knowledge except as to those matters stated on information and belief and as to those she believes them to be true.

Pia Powers
Pia Powers

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
Signed and sworn to before me this day by Pia Powers.

Date: September 15, 2010 Sandra K. Hammond
Sandra K. Hammond, Notary Public

(Official Seal)



My commission expires: August 4, 2013

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the attached *Petition* is being served this date electronically and via UPS Overnight (5 copies) upon:

Jeffrey M. Nelson
Shannon B. Hudson
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And that a copy of the attached *Petition* is being served this date electronically or via U.S. Mail upon:

Jane Lewis-Raymond
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Thomas C. Tinsley
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Spartanburg, SC 29301-5241

This the 16th day of September, 2010.

s/ James H. Jeffries IV
James H. Jeffries IV